49: Findeisen -- 10 [2] E-1 (no date) 1930 Yakut
116 435, 439, 543, 609

Shimkevich calls the Yakuts real parasites of the Tunguses. In his German travel account, he says: "Twice a year, on Easter and Christmas, they hold markets in the forests, where the Tunguses will find everything they need: reindeer, powder, shotguns, clothes, sugar, butter. They usually become indebted to the Yakuts and cannot get rid of them any more. The Yakuts follow them and sell their goods at a terribly high price. In Middendorg's time, i. e. in 1844, there were 26 traveling Yakut merchants; today there are more than 60 of them. In such a market which was held in the vicinity of the gold washing plants of the Niman company, 20 merchants bought furs from 100 native families which were present; the furs had a value of 124,000 marks, but the natives were sold goods worth 80,000 marks instead. But the Tunguses had still a debt of about 160,000 to the tradesmen. The goods included 3000 sable-furs worth 36 marks each, 1300 musk-rat, squirrel, fox and bear furs, etc. The Tunguses bought 1086 reindeer, including 684 beasts of burden at a price of 80 to 120 marks, and 250 to 300 saddle-reindeer worth 200 to 240 marks each. 24,000 pounds of cow's butter which the Yakuts had bought along on their reindeer were sold at one mark a pound, 400 pounds of other fat at 80 pfennigs, and various other goods at 4000 marks."

In another place, he says: The market held annually near the Niman gold washing plants has replaced all others previously held. The natives then come together from all sides and from far places, and the Yakut merchants make good business. The Yakuts are not only good merchants, they are good hunters, too.

/184 cont./

224 caught in traps, but is also dug out of its den, as we ourselves had
[435] an opportunity to observe on our return journey. The price of a good skin here yields on the average about a ruble, but many different kinds are distinguished according to quality, and the poorer ones are valued at only half a ruble; the winter pelts are, of course, the best. The highly prized blue variety of the arctic fox seems
[651] to be practically unknown here. The crown tax as well as the goods purchased from the merchants are paid for with the skins of the arctic fox.

● [543] Around Easter a kind of annual fair is held here, at which appear both the inhabitants of the islands lying in front of the mouth of the Olenék and those from the nearest settlements of the forest region, in order /185/ to trade skins for the necessary commodities
[511] from the traders -- tobacco, tea, cloth, ironware, etc. Despite the inhospitable climate the people here seem to be well off and
[512] very content. Even during the dark months they go about their
[132] activities out in the open, especially fishing, and only about the time of the reappearance of the sun, around the Day of the Holy Three Kings (sixth of January, old style), when the most frightful snowstorms set in, do they shut themselves up completely -- often
342 for a couple of weeks -- in their dwellings. The latter are much
362 more solidly built than in the forest region, in order to offer suf-
313 ficient resistance against the force of the storms. The material for building as well as for heating consists of driftwood which is supplied by the river and even more by the ocean. Besides the
797 merchants, Boljkalák is also visited almost annually by a missionary, who holds services in the chapel here. Chitrow praises the devoutness of the people -- the outward signs of this did not remain unnoticed by us either.

554 On the day after our arrival the elder (stárosta) of the
292 Kangaláss Jakuten /Yakut/ appeared with fresh reindeer for the
123 return journey. He ranked higher than both the local elder and the one accompanying us and wore, as a mark of distinction, a sort of uniform, a yellowish gray cloth coat with red trimming
233 and a gold-embroidered belt with a short sword. The new reindeer, which had to be given a day of rest, and the previous ones